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VARIOUS.

PAPIER-MACHÉ FOR PANELLING, VENEERING &c.

The undermentioned journal notices some beautiful specimens of papier-mâché panelling, in imitation of oak, mahogany, and other woods, prepared by a process, patented in Denmark, by Œerling and C. Hansen, of Ebeltoft. They are stated to be undistinguishable from choice specimens of the woods in question, and superior to them in point of strength, as compared with weight and power of withstanding damp. Further particulars are promised.

The Practical Magazine from Industri-Tidende (Copenhagen).

CURE FOR BADLY-SHUTTING WINDOWS.

M. Schütze communicates the following to the Dresden Gewerbe-Verein, as an infallible cure for badly-closing windows. Cover the bottom of the sash with fresh putty; chalk the corresponding face of the frame; shut down the window fast; and leave it long enough for the putty to harden. The fresh putty will accommodate itself to any inequalities, and harden into a permanent close-fitting joint, any excess being pressed out between the sash and the frame. The chalk on the latter will prevent the putty adhering to it and so interfering with the reopening of the window.

Stummer's Ingenieur.

BRIGHTENING IRON.

Boden recommends the following method of brightening the surfaces of iron plates, wire, &c., as the result of numerous experiments made in the laboratory of the Industrial Museum at Munich: —

The object, whatever it may be, just as it comes from the forge, is laid for the space of one hour in dilute sulphuric acid ($^1/_{20}$ part acid). The action of the acid may be increased by the addition of a little carbolic acid (?). The forge scales are loosened by the action of the acid, and the object is then washed clean with water, and dried with sawdust. Next, it is held for an instant in nitrous acid, the operator of course being on his guard against the nitrous fumes, washed again carefully, dried in sawdust, and rubbed over clean. Iron goods thus treated acquire a perfectly bright, pure surface, having a white glance, without the intervention of any mechanical process of polishing.

The Practical Magazine from Mitthl. d. Bayer. Gewerbe-Museums.

COATING BRASS AND COPPER WITH ZINC.

For putting a bright deposit of zinc on brass or copper, when the galvanic battery is not brought into play, Böttger has hitherto employed a concentrated solution of sal-ammoniac containing fragments of zinc, in which the object to be coated is immersed and subjected to a boiling heat for a considerable time. M. Böttger now finds that an alkaline solution of oxide of zinc is quicker and surer than the sal-ammoniac.

An excess of powdered zinc is placed in a concentrated solution of potash or caustic soda, boiling. In this the objects to be coated are immersed. After a few minutes, they come out with a brilliant coating of zinc.

For what are called Zamboni's piles, very thin strips of sheet copper coated with zinc are used, the zinc being subsequently removed with hydrochloric acid from one face of each strip. These strips constitute far more active electromotors than layers of gold-leaf or imitation silver.

Pinchbeck can be made at a temperature not exceeding 120° to 140° C. When copper thinly coated with zinc is carefully heated to the above temperature (in an oil-bath is best), the thin coating of zinc combines with the subjacent copper, forming a golden-coloured pinchbeck. As soon as the desired colour is obtained, the objects should be quickly cooled in water or other suitable fluid.

The Practical Magazine from Technologiste, March, 1875.

NEW ICEHOUSE AT BRUSSELS.

An icehouse of colossal dimensions has lately been erected outside the gates of Brussels, on the Charleroi Road, on the north side of the city. The roof covers an area of 1,600 square metres. The walls are double, the space between them being filled with moss and sawdust. There are nine separate ice chambers, each of 1,000 cubic metres capacity. Ample means of ingress and egress are provided, and lifts and tramways on each floor facilitate the distribution of the ice. In the upper part of the building are numerous galleries, approached by staircases from the outside as well as the inside of the building. In these a constant current of air is maintened by means of thirty-six ventilating shafts, so that the temperature never exceds 2° R. ($36^1/_2$° Fahr.) These galleries are specially designed for the storage of fresh provisions during the hot weather. Room is thus afforded for hanging 2,000 quarters of meat, each quarter being perfectly isolated. A separate space is set apart for the storage of fish. Bottled beer and other liquors can also be housed if desired. A million tons of ice were stored in the building during the winter just past. A great part of the ice comes from water-meadows, which can be inundated at will; but large supplies of Norwegian ice are received as well.

The Practical Magazine from Technologiste.

ARTIFICIAL MARBLE.

A mixture of plaster of Paris, cement, and white of egg, when boiled together in water, produce a substance capable of high polish and resembling white marble. Of course, the addition of some pigment will permit the manufacture of coloured varieties of marble. Instead of boiling, an aqueous solution of gallic acid may be used for coagulating the albumen.

IMITATION GOLD.

An alloy having a very fine and malleable grain, susceptible to a high polish and impervious to rust, and, while closely resembling gold, may advantageously replace that metal in a variety of cases, is made of 100 parts pure copper, 17 parts tin, 6 parts magnesia, 3,6 parts sal ammoniac, 1,8 parts quicklime, and 9 parts bitartrate of potassa. The copper is melted first, and the magnesia, ammonia, lime, and tartrate are successively added in small quantities. The tin in small pieces is then placed in the crucible, and the whole brought to fusion for 35 minutes, after which the alloy is allowed to cool.

The Practical Magazine.

PEINTURES MARMORÉENNES.

This name is given to a new species of wall-decoration, suggested to the Société d'Encouragement by M. Pruneau, a retired notary of Bleneau (Yonne). It has been tried at the chateau of M. d'Harcourt and elsewhere, with excellent results, and has met with the warm approval of the Paris Société Centrale des Architectes.

The *peintures marmoréennes* are double sheets of glass, the inner surface of the under sheet being painted in oil-colour, in imitation of lapis-lazuli, jasper, onyx, or other costly stone. They are used like tiles, for the walls of bath-rooms, the wainscoting of dining-rooms, ornamental pavements, &c. The price varies from 16 to 21 fr. per square metre according to the thickness of the glass. The process is applicable to marqueterie and cabinet-work as well as wall-decoration.

Les Mondes 4th March, 1875.

MICA GLAZE.

In certain shops at Munich may be seen numerous ornamental articles having the appearance of silver. They are simply plaster casts coated with mica.

The sheets of mica are cleansed and dried, by firing or boiling in hydrochloric acid, and are then reduced to a very fine powder, which is mixed with collodion, and laid on in successive coats, like paint, to any desired thickness.

Articles thus prepared look like silver, are unimpaired by sulphuretted gas or dust, and may be washed with impunity. The collodion adheres firmly to glass, china, metal, and wood as well as plaster, and any desired colour may be given to the mica. A great variety of articles may thus be ornamented at very small cost.

Moniteur Indust. Belge, 1st March, 1875.